

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 ACDA-07

ORM-02 DHA-02 CU-02 VO-03 IGA-02 /105 W

-----009554 201014Z /17

R 171333Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 990

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0945

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RH, MI

SUBJECT: ZANU/SITHOLE GROUP MAKES PLEA FOR US MATERIAL SUPPORT

1. SUMMARY: ZANU/SITHOLE SPOKESMAN CALLED ON EMBASSY JUNE 17 TO REQUEST EDUCATIONAL AID FOR YOUNG ZIMBABWE REFUGEES AND MATERIAL AID FOR SITHOLE. SITHOLE PLANS RETURN TO ZIMBABWE, MABE JULY, TO ORGANIZE HIS FORCES WITHIN COUNTRY. REQUEST DEPT. GUIDANCE.

2. H.J.A. MAWERE, WHO CALLS HIMSELF ZANU REPRESENTATIVE MALAWI, CALLED ON CHARGE JUNE 17 IN COMPANY WITH MRS. MAWERE AND GOSPEL NDLOVU.

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LATTER SEEMS TO BE ITINERANT SITHOLE SPOKESMAN WHO NOW IN MALAWI TO ASSIST ESTABLISHMENT OF ZANU/SITHOLE OFFICE. HE SAID HE WAS AWAITING ARRIVAL OF FNU MUKONO "SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS" AND FNU MASONGMAI,

"PUBLICITY SECRETARY". MAWERE CONFIDED THAT SITHOLE WAS DUE ARRIVE MALAWI AROUND JUNE 23 AND WOULD ATTEMPT CONTACT EMBASSY AT THAT TIME. MAWERE EXPLAINED THAT ZANU/SITHOLE COULD NOT OPERATE IN ZAMBIA,

MOZAMBIQUE OR TANZANIA AND WOULD CONCENTRATE ACTIVITIES IN MALAWI. MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY SUPPOSEDLY HELPING WITH OFFICE SPACE ALTHOUGH WHEN CHARGE REFUSED REQUEST FOR OFFICE EQUIPMENT SUGGESTING THEY TURN TO GOM, IT WAS EVIDENT THE LATTER'S GENEROSITY VERY LIMITED.

3. MAWERE, KNOWN TO EMBASSY BY PREVIOUS VISIT TO ASSIST MRS. SITHOLE IN OBTAINING VISA TO STATES AND IN CONTACTS OVER VISAS FOR STUDENTS FROM RHODESIA, AND NDLOVU MADE STRONG APPEAL FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS TO STUDY IN "WEST". THEY EXPLAINED THERE ABOUT 100 YOUNG ZANU/SITHOLE ZIMBABWEANS IN MALAWI AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (33 IN MALAWI, 21 OF WHICH ARE KEPT BY GOM IN COMPOUND IN ZOMBA) WHOM THEY WOULD LIKE TO EDUCATE IN US, NAMELY IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING AIMED AT PRODUCING MID-LEVEL TECHNICIANS. THEY CLAIMED IT WAS INDISPENSABLE FOR ZANU/SITHOLE TO FIND EDUCATIONAL SLOTS FOR THESE YOUTH IN ORDER TO PROVE IT WAS ORGANIZATION WHICH COULD DELIVER AND AS BALANCE TO "600 STUDENTS NKHOMO HAD SENT TO RUSSIA". CHARGE REPLIED THAT THERE NO REPEAT NO US SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT PRESENT FOR SUCH STUDENTS BUT IN RECOGNITION OF NEED FOR TRAINED CADRES FOR INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE, ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCH TRAINING SHOULD CERTAINLY BE EXPLORED. URGED MAWERE TO CANVASS POTENTIAL STUDENTS TO ESTABLISH EDUCATION BACKGROUNDS AND FIELDS OF DESIRED TRAINING AND TO EXPLORE PRIVATE SOURCES OF FUNDING SUCH AS CHURCH GROUPS IN U.S. EXPLAINED THAT VISAS WERE NO REAL PROBLEM AS LONG AS UK HIGH COMMISSION WOULD FURNISH VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. CHARGE WONDERS WHETHER ZIMBABWEANS MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN SOME TRAINING COURSES UNDER USAID AFRICAN MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. NDLOVU AND MAWERE THEN MADE IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR US SUPPORT FOR SITHOLE, CLAIMING HE HAD SUPPORT OF PEOPLE INSIDE ZIMBABWE AS WELL AS CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENTS OF GHANA, NIGERIA, AND LIBERIA. MAWERE, WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED SITHOLE TO RECENT ACCRA MEETING, CLAIMED ACHEAMPONG ACCEPTED SITHOLE AS ONLY ZIMBABWE LEADER WITH WIDE BASE OF SUPPORT INSIDE COUNTRY. BOTH SITHOLE SPOKESMEN SAID THAT THE QUICKER THE SETTLEMENT THE BETTER FOR WESTERN LEADER LIKE SITHOLE AS SOVIET INFLUENCE WOULD ONLY INCREASE WITH LENGTH OF WAR. MAWERE SAID THAT SITHOLE WOULD SOON GO BACK TO ZIMBABWE, "MAYBE IN MONTH" TO ORGANIZE HIS FORCES. MAWERE CONTINUED THAT HE WAS MAKING APPEAL TO US ON BEHALF OF SITHOLE FOR US FUNDS TO ENABLE SITHOLE TO SET UP OFFICE, PURCHASE TRANSPORTATION (MENTIONED NEED FOR MINI-BUS FOR EACH OF 58 DISTRICTS, ETC). HE CLAIMED PARTY WAS FLAT OUT BROKE, COMMENTING US FUNDS WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO SITHOLE'S CREDIBILITY AS ONE WHO COULD DELIVER AS EVERYONE KNEW NKHOMO COULD GET MONEY FROM SOVIETS ANYTIME HE NEEDED. MAWERE, WHO SAID HE HAS TRAVELED TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS' CAMPS IN MOZAMBIQUE SEVERAL TIMES, SAID MAJORITY OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS, BOTH OUTSIDE AND INSIDE ZIMBABWE, WERE LOYAL TO SITHOLE.

5. CHARGE STAYED CLEAR OF EXPRESSION OF ANY SUPPORT, EITHER

MORAL OR MATERIAL, FOR SITHOLE FACTION AND OUTLINED US EFFORTS IN
SUPPORT UK CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) IN SEEKING EARLY
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

6. MAWERE MADE IT CLEAR THIS APPEAL FOR US SUPPORT WAS AT PERSONAL
BEHEST OF SITHOLE. AS SITHOLE DUE IN MALAWI ABOUT JUNE 23 AND
EXPECTS TO MAKE MALALI BASE OF OPERATIONS, CHARGE FEELS CERTAIN HE
WILL BE PRESSED FOR ANSWER. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
GUIDANCE.
HOFFMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LILONG00945
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770646/aaaabobs.tel
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bd06fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2114691
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZANU/SITHOLE GROUP MAKES PLEA FOR US MATERIAL SUPPORT
TAGS: PINT, RH, MI, ZANU, (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bd06fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009